

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-8-25

WHEREAS on January 7, 2025, I proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties due to fire and windstorm conditions that have now caused multiple fires, including the Palisades, Eaton, Hurst, Lidia, Sunset, and Woodley Fires; and

WHEREAS these fires have collectively burned over 40,300 acres, destroyed or damaged more than 12,300 structures, including homes, small businesses, and houses of worship, with initial estimates placing this disaster among the most destructive in California history; and

WHEREAS in response to my request, President Biden quickly issued a Major Disaster Declaration on January 8, 2025, pursuant to which the Federal Emergency Management Agency will provide eligible individuals money to help with temporary housing needs, including rental assistance or money to stay in a hotel; and

WHEREAS the destruction of homes and other structures caused by these fires has created an enormous amount of hazardous debris, including firearms ammunition, propane tanks, and batteries; and

WHEREAS on January 12, 2025, I issued Executive Order N-4-25 suspending the application of the California Environmental Quality Act and permitting requirements under the California Coastal Act to efforts to rebuild or repair properties or facilities destroyed or substantially damaged by these fires and directing other action to remove barriers to rapid rebuilding efforts; and

WHEREAS rebuilding efforts cannot commence until hazardous debris is removed from affected properties; and

WHEREAS on January 14, 2025, I announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency mission-tasked the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to remove and dispose of hazardous debris from homes and structures impacted by these fires as soon as it is safe to enter the affected areas; and

WHEREAS US EPA Stands ready to commence their hazardous debris removal work, if authorized under state law to access affected properties; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Order would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of these fires and windstorm conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code sections 8567, 8571, and 8627, do hereby issue the following Order to become effective immediately.

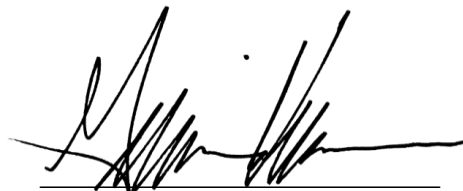
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT: The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and any other individual or entity performing work at their direction, shall have full power to provide mutual aid to the State of California and any areas affected by the proclaimed state of emergency, and shall have the authority to enter private

property in Los Angeles County to remove debris that may contain hazardous substances and to conduct any testing appropriate to ensure the hazards are mitigated. Any state law, regulation, or rule impeding provision of this mutual aid is suspended to the extent necessary to provide this mutual aid to impacted areas of Los Angeles County. Any section of the Health and Safety Code allowing the immediate removal of this hazardous debris, including but not limited to section 101040, 101085, 101475, shall apply to and include the actions of the US EPA, FEMA, or any individual or entity performing work at their direction, as if those agencies were a political subdivision or state agency for all purposes related to this operation.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 15th day of January 2025.



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY WEBER, PH. D
Secretary of State